

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

### ***Estimated Project Cost:*** *\$2 Million*

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

- Project has been active in Russian River Watershed since 1997
- Administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) in conjunction with the USDA Farm Service Agency
- Funded through the Farm Bill and provides up to 75% of the cost to install conservation projects
- Eligible projects must be included in site-specific conservation plan prepared by the property owner and approved by NCRS
- Projects planned or implemented in the Russian River watershed include treating non - point source pollution and improving riparian habitat on dairies, livestock ranches and vineyards
- Projects have included invasive species removal, riparian revegetation, installation of fish screens on irrigation pumps, and replacement of flashboard dams with offsite passive systems
- Water quality has been improved by erosion control projects to stabilize hillside gullies, improve access roads and establish permanent cover crops in vineyards

#### **PROJECT GOAL**

*Encourage conservation projects within the Russian River watershed by providing incentives to agricultural producers.*

#### **POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS:**

- Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
- Mendocino Resource Conservation District
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
- University of California Cooperative Extension

## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**



**Livestock fencing**



**Willow wall on Forsythe Creek**



**Willow baffles on Feliz Creek**